

**Draft Statement of Representative Henry A. Waxman**  
**Video for California Primary Care Association**  
September 29, 2014

Thank you. I appreciate this recognition, especially from the California Primary Care Association. An award from you is really meaningful. We have been such good partners over the years, and you have done such good work for people in need.

All the time I was in Washington, I knew that you, your staff, and your volunteers were working on the same issues that I cared about all along: health care for everyone, regardless of who they are and regardless of how much they can pay.

Whenever I worked on reproductive health, prenatal care, child health, and primary care for everyone—I always knew that if we could get something at the Federal level, you'd get it to the people in California who needed it. And I knew that if we could expand Medicaid for all of these people, you'd actually make sure that the services reached them.

The political fight hasn't always been easy. Many of you will remember the proposals for block grants and caps and cuts—both at the State and Federal levels. Reagan, Bush, Gingrich and now Boehner and Ryan. We've had powerful opponents.

But we won all those fights. And I'm happy to say that you can both deliver those services and actually get reimbursed for them—so that you can get more care to more people.

- Since Federal law requires that health centers be covered by Medicaid, you know that you will get paid.
- And since Federal law requires that Medicaid pay at a rate that reflects your costs, you can count on Medicaid to be a better source of payment.

This is not to say that the work is all done. Obviously, the Medicaid expansion and the ACA are still works in progress. There's a Federal funding cliff for coming for community health centers, too. There are growing pains and there are big fights to come.

But someday we will really have universal coverage. Someday undocumented people will have access to primary care. And someday the health systems will work for low-income people as well as they work for people in private insurance and Medicare. But until then, centers will continue to be our best safety nets under the safety net.

So, we've made a lot of progress. I've enjoyed and valued being a part of a team with you to make that happen in law and in real life.

There's still work to do. I know I can rely on you to keep up these efforts. You're celebrating your first 20 years, but I predict 20 years more of progress and improvements—and 20 more after that. And eventually, we'll reach our shared goal of real care and complete coverage for everyone.

It's been a rewarding pleasure being a partner with the Primary Care Association and all of your clinics. I'm retiring from the Congress now, but I'm not retiring from these issues. You can still rely on me, and I look forward to continuing our partnership.

Thank you.